

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 3, 2006. Claims 1-34 are currently pending.

Claim 1.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Mamiya. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that “the lightguide element includes a polarization selection layer for causing light of a specific polarization direction, among the light incident from the incidence surface, to selectively go out from the outgoing surface, and a polarization conversion layer for converting light of a polarization direction, different from the specific polarization direction, into the light of the specific polarization direction; the polarization selection layer reflects the light of the specific polarization direction substantially only toward the outgoing surface, and wherein at least part of the polarization conversion layer is substantially parallel to the polarization selection layer.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates that polarization conversion layer 24 is substantially parallel to polarization selection layer 22. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the above underlined features of claim 1.

Mamiya fails to meet claim 1 for at least two different reasons.

First, Mamiya fails to disclose or suggest the claimed polarization conversion layer which converts light of one polarization to another polarization, and at least part of which is substantially parallel to the polarization selection layer. In particular, glass substrate 120 in Fig. 8 of Mamiya, relied on by the Office Action, does not convert light of one polarization to another polarization as required by claim 1. This substrate 120 in Mamiya is entirely unrelated to the polarization conversion layer recited in claim 1.

Second, Mamiya fails to disclose or suggest a polarization selection layer that “reflects the light of the specific polarization direction substantially only toward the outgoing surface” as required by claim 1. In particular, lightguide 1 in Fig. 8 of Mamiya does *not* reflect light of the specific polarization direction substantially only toward the outgoing surface as required by claim 1; instead, Fig. 8 of Mamiya teaches the opposite of claim 1 because Fig. 8 illustrates that lightguide 1 and films 4, 6 reflect S-polarized light toward reflector 108 which is the opposite of what the claim requires (e.g., see Mamiya at col. 11, lines 4-11).

For at least the above two reasons, the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 1 is incorrect and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 16, 17 and 31

Claims 3, 16, 17 and 31 each require *a polarization conversion layer which converts light of one polarization to another polarization, and at least part of which is substantially parallel to the polarization selection layer*. Mamiya fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 3, 16, 17 and 31. In particular, glass substrate 120 in Fig. 8 of Mamiya, relied on by the Office Action, does *not* convert light of one polarization to another polarization as required by these claims. This substrate 120 in Mamiya is entirely unrelated to the polarization conversion layer recited in these claims.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

MASUDA

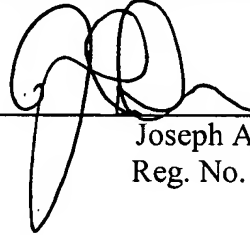
Appl. No. 10/533,893

November 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Rhoa', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor

Arlington, VA 22203-1808

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100